

Unto the Church of God

1 Cor 1:1-2

Background:

Acts-Power

Pastoral Epistles—Polity

1 & 2 Cor—Problems

First contact with Corinth--second missionary journey.

Arrived after Philippi, Thessalonica, Berea, and Athens (Acts 16:11–18:1).

Met by Aquilla and Priscilla—tentmakers.

Many won to Christ, including leader of synagogue, Crispus. Acts 18:8

Persecution

Next pastor—Apollos Acts 18:24–19:1

After leaving Corinth--wrote First Corinthians.

Before writing 1 Corinthians-- lost epistle.

Both--correct problems.

Church of Corinth--all kinds of Christians.

Solid and immature

Spiritual and carnal

Baby Christians and adult

Pure and immoral.

Problems in church of Corinth

Divisions and factions

Worldliness -- lack of Biblical separation

Immorality—incest, fornication.

Abuse of Spiritual gifts

Fighting among church members

Divorce

I. Paul's Authority

1 Corinthians 1:1

Greek culture--names of authors at beginning.

Paul: original name Saul...

Affluent family

Tarsus

Public School education—Gamaliel

Pharisee

Called : Chosen, appointed

Not self-appointed or chosen by men

Apostle: messenger, representative, sent out one.

Qualifications

- Been with Jesus from beginning. Jn. 15:27

- Eye-witness of resurrection Acts 1:21-22
- Have seen Christ after resurrection 1 Cor. 9:1
- Eye-witnesses of everything Jesus did Acts 1:8; 10:39

Apostles:

Considered infallible and inspired. Jn.14:26; 16:13

Miracles Mt. 10:8

Confer ability to do miracles on others Acts 9:15,17,18; 19:6

Discern spirits 1 Cor. 12:10

Forgive sins Jn.20:23

Ordain presbyters Acts 14:23

Exercise rule and leadership over churches 1 Cor. 5:3-5; 2 Cor. 10:6,8,11

Paul reminding Corinthians--he is no mere ordinary man ...letter directly from God.

Through the will of God: By means of will of God.

Not my choice.

God appointed me

Sosthenes, Paul's secretary.

Acts 18--leader in synagogue.

1 Corinthians 1:2

II. Their position as a church

Belongs to God.

Pastor and elders -- under-shepherds.

Stewards Eph 4:11-13

Church purchased by blood of Christ 1 Cor 6:20; Acts 20:28

1 Timothy 3:15

Pillar: stud, post, support under a house that holds up floor

Church--institution which holds up and supports truth of Word of God

Truth: Word of God

Ground: basis, support, that which gives stability and firmness. Firm foundation.

No other institution God calls pillar and ground of truth.

Vital--we are attached to local church. Hebrews 10:24-25

III. Their Position as individuals

1 Corinthians 1:2

Sanctified: set apart, made holy by Holy Spirit.

in Christ Jesus . In realm of Christ Jesus,

By means of Christ Jesus.

As result of faith in Jesus Christ.

Acts 26:18 Romans 15:16 Hebrews 10:10

Called : invited, appointed, selected. Summoned

Saints: Holy, set apart ones, sanctified ones.

To bring glory to Christ.

Never declared saints by own merit.

Never declared saints by others.

Only because of our identification with Christ Jesus.

1 Corinthians 1:9 Galatians 1:6 1 Thessalonians 2:12 2 Thessalonians 2:14 2 Timothy 1:9

1 Peter 1:15 ... *so be ye holy in all manner of conversation;*

1 Peter 2:9 ...*called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:*

2 Peter 1:3*called us to glory and virtue:*

Revelation 19:9 .

A. Foreknowledge: to know beforehand, To foresee

God knows who will accept the offer of eternal life and who will reject it...in advance.

1 Pet 1:2 *Elect according to the foreknowledge of God*

Foolish to say God saw ahead into future whom would believe and then chose this person for salvation.

Foreknowledge not imply God determined all choices beforehand.

If buy into philosophy that says God predetermines man to be saved or lost

Why God create unbelievers if He predetermines beforehand that they are going to reject Him?

Why doesn't God create individuals whom He knows and has predetermined beforehand that they will receive Him into their hearts and lives?

If God bases salvation on His foreknowledge of those who will believe, where does saving faith come from?

Rom. 5:10; 8:7; Eph. 2:3; Col. 1:21 1 Cor. 2:9-14

What believe? Both!

To be saved--choose of own volition and free will, to receive Christ.

God supernaturally draws person to Himself and opens spiritually blinded eyes and plants faith into heart

B. Predestination To mark out, appoint, or determine beforehand.

Conformed to: fashioned, similar

Predestination has nothing to do with lost

Has everything to do with Christian

God predetermines, appoints a certain plan or purpose for Christian to be conformed to image of His son.

Eph 1:11,12 Eph 1:4,5

Truth out of balance: No need, whatsoever, to use arm of flesh to influence people for Christ. (Calvinism) Jeremiah 17:5

C. Conformed: Jointly formed, fashioned like unto.

At moment of salvation,

God pointed us in direction of image of His Son

Put us on track leading to image of His Son. 1 Cor 15:49 Phil 3:21

Romans 8:29

Firstborn, speaks of priority or supremacy of Christ.

Rom 8:30

D. Called Divine means God uses to summon someone who is spiritually dead to Himself.

Through gospel by power of Holy Spirit.

Evangelism is very means that Holy Spirit uses to call people.

E. Justified *..and whom he called, them he also justified:*

Declared, once for all, righteous by God.

Just as if we had never sinned.

Stott: *He became sin with our sin, so that we might become righteous with his righteousness.*

F. Glorified Magnified, given honour and glory 2 Cor 4:17

...them He also glorified--past tense.

James Denney: *The tense in the last word is amazing. It is the most daring anticipation of faith that even the N.T. contains.* (p.652)

IV. Their Identification

Called: Summoned, invited, commissioned

Saints: Holy, set apart ones, sanctified ones.

Romans 8:27 Romans 12:13 Romans 15:25 Romans 15:26 1 Corinthians 14:33 1 Corinthians 16:1 2 Corinthians 8:4 Ephesians 1:15,18

1 Corinthians 1:2

...not only true of you in church in Corinth but to Christians everywhere—to all who call upon the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and theirs.

So What?

I. His Authority---Will you place yourself under authority of Word of God

II. Their position as a church

Commit to be faithful and loyal to local church.

III. Their Position as individuals—sanctified in Christ Jesus.

A. Foreknowledge

B. Predestination; *Conformed to image of His son.*

C. Conformed: jointly formed, fashioned like unto.

At moment of salvation, God pointed us in direction of image of His Son.

D. Called God drew you

How does that make you feel?

E. Justified Declared righteous, just as if I had never sinned.

F. Glorified Magnified, given honour and glory.

IV. Their Identification—called to be saints.